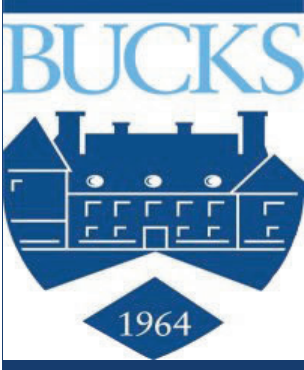


# The Centurion



The Award-Winning, Student-Run Newspaper of Bucks County Community College

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## The Centurion Takes Home 10 Keystone Press Awards

MICHAEL VIGILANTE

Centurion Staff

The Centurion won 10 awards at this year's Student Keystone Press Awards, bringing their total to 84 awards since 2010.

The paper, which is run entirely by students, will take home second place in the general news category for "Missing Woman's Body Found" written by Shannon Harrar, when the winners are honored at the America East Media Business & Technology Conference on Wednesday, April 12.

The Centurion also received honorable mention in the general news category for "On Campus Protests Turn Violent," written by Harrar and Hal Conte, that details an incident on campus last December in which a controversial protestor riled up students.

The paper also won second place for their ongoing news coverage of the 2016 election, by Centurion staff members Harrar, Conte, Nash Anderson, and Erin McVan.

In the public service & enterprise package category, the Centurion won first place for a package of stories called "Different Relationships in a Different Age," written by Lauren Savana, Diamond Schuler, Angela Grabosky, Crystal Stout and George Means.

The paper won second place in the same category for "Racism and Prejudice in the Land of the Free," written by Savana,



3 of the award winners, from left to right; Shannon Harrar, Lauren Savana, Hal Conte

PHOTO CREDIT: MATTHEW KELLY

Jahmeelah Wilson, Carly Pendergast, Chad Dingman, Stout and Schuler.

Means also received an honorable mention for his profile on local hip-hop artist Anthony Fiorelli.

Nash Anderson won honorable mention for "Golf Team Looks to Improve" in the sports category.

In the website category, the Centurion and its entire staff received first place.

The paper garnered an honorable mention in the Cartoon/Graphic Illustration category for the illustration "America through a Danish student's eyes," done by Karoline Lunddal Dam, a visiting student from Denmark.

And the paper won an honorable mention in the news photo category for a photo of protests on campus by Alexander Anderson.

The Centurion competed in division III of the Student Keystone Press Awards, which includes community colleges from around Pennsylvania. Competing schools include Community College of Allegheny County, Delaware County Community College, Montgomery County Community College, and HACC.

Winners will receive their awards at an awards luncheon on Wednesday, April 12 in Hershey. First place winners will receive plaques, while second place and honorable mention winners will receive certificates.

Tony Rogers, journalism professor and faculty adviser to the Centurion said, "I think it shows that even at a community college paper, where staff turnover is a constant, you can still produce really good journalism. The fact that the Centurion has won so many awards is a testament to the hard work and dedication of all the paper's editors and reporters, year in and year out."

Some areas of focus over the past year for the paper have been its coverage of the sports teams at Bucks as well as photography.

"We are always trying to improve our coverage of the sports teams at Bucks, and I think we've done a pretty good job of that this year," said Rogers. "Covering sports at the college can be difficult because many of the games are held at times when students have already left campus for outside jobs."

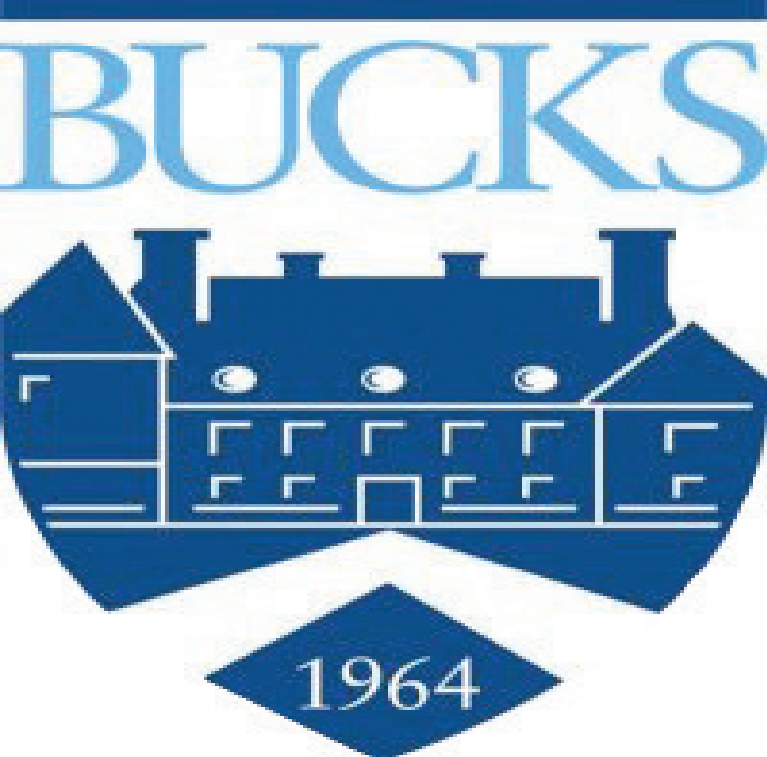
"Photography is definitely an area we could improve upon, though," Rogers added. "Although, with the advent of smartphones that take pretty good quality pictures, it's made things a lot easier in that regard. I always emphasize to my students that when they are covering a story they have to think not just about words but about visuals, meaning that every story should have a photo or graphic to go with it."

Rogers' official job title is faculty adviser to the paper. "I'm not there to run the paper for the students, but to provide advice and guidance when needed," said Rogers.

"If we have a sensitive story that needs to be handled in a certain way, I can be there to guide students on the right approach. But still in the end, students run the paper. They write and edit every article, write the headlines, do the layout, and that's the way it should be," Rogers added.

The Centurion is open and available to all Bucks students. If you are interested in pursuing a career in journalism or want to get involved, visit [www.bucks.edu/journalism](http://www.bucks.edu/journalism).

## Bucks Promotes 15-Credit Program



ROWAN HALDEMAN

Centurion Staff

Bucks started a program where they have been encouraging students to take 15 credits [five classes] instead of 12 credits [four classes] each semester hoping

is that students are more likely to graduate on time and either transfer to a four-year institution or enter the workforce if they take 30 credits a year. Students who take 30 credits per year are also more likely to both earn good grades and save money in the process." On the other hand, Seutter also plans to encourage students to start taking 15 credits instead of 12 each semester, "flexible online and hybrid courses are offered in a variety of areas. Many courses are also offered in accelerated formats that provide added flexibility. Courses are even offered during both the summer and winter sessions to give students even more options."

However, there are some problems when it comes to Bucks students wanting to take 12 credits instead of 15. Leeann Talbert, 18, a social work major living in Levittown, finds little time to study while juggling work and school. "I work 20 hours a week, taking five classes, making it hard to find time to study."

John Durison, 23, who is an undeclared student at Bucks liv-

ing in Doylestown, has his hands full with classes that contain a heavy workload. "It depends on your major, I find it easier to mix up classes with electives. Time management is also key." Another factor that arises is when students take too long to graduate. "They could get tired of taking the classes, it's financially taxing. The sooner you get your bachelor's degree the sooner you can begin the next step in life."

On the other hand, Ariel Navarro, 19 who lives in Yardley, majoring in pre aid health, agrees that juggling school and work is stressful. "It is extra hours for class, the more hours of school added to your week while you're trying to make money is hard." Navarro thought that there were many factors into students taking too long to graduate, "mainly the loss of determination can be a huge factor."

Along the same lines, Andrew Krysztofiak, 19 who is in the Penn Study had many thoughts on why students are taking too long to graduate, and what the problems might be. "You will end up paying

more, it will take longer to find a field of study or job. And you will be less likely to go to a four-year university, and less likely to finish with a career. You also might be more likely to be a dropout."

In transition, Santiago Viloa, 19 who is studying chemical engineering living in Doylestown believes 12 credits is plenty for students. "Students barely get by taking 12 credits. It's a lot of work, also it's a lot more money to pay for the classes if you take 15 credits."

Kelly Donohue, 18 is planning to major in early childhood development living in Holland is taking 12 credits during the fall semester and plans to take a summer classes so she is not overwhelmed with the workload. "I would rather have time to focus on four classes, than focus on five classes and do a poor job. If I was taking 15 credits I wouldn't be able to put a full effort in." In addition, Kelly gave her reasons of why it is taking students too long to graduate, "Some students give up, they start a degree then stop trying. And students will fail their classes."

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# Bucks News

## Annual Journalism Forum is Coming to Bucks

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Hal Conte

**Advisor**  
Tony Rogers

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Email your letters to :  
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Letters should be limited to 500 words. They will be edited for spelling, space and malicious or libelous statements. Letters must be the original work of the writer and must be signed. For identification purposes, letters must include the writer’s full name and telephone number.

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**HAL CONTE**  
*Centurion Staff*

Bucks is poised to launch its annual journalism forum in April, with reporters aiming to promote the myriad career opportunities available for journalism students even as the news business deals with multiple threats to its business model.

“It’s about how to make it in journalism,” said Tony Rogers, professor of journalism at Bucks. “The majority of our speakers are former Bucks journalism students who have gone on to forge terrific careers for themselves. I think the experiences they share will be very relevant to our students.”

Since 2008, newsrooms across the country have downsized their staffs in an attempt to respond to financial difficulties arising from a major drop in print advertising. Nonetheless, Rogers is optimistic about the future of the industry, and believes that aspiring journalists will be able to find careers.

The list of speakers at the journalism conference includes Tom Sofield, a former Bucks student who has gone on to found LevittownNow, a local news website that has gained over 100,000 subscribers since its founding, as well as Anthony DiMattia, who became a staff writer for the Bucks County Courier Times just one year after graduating in 2013. DiMattia is now a copy editor at the paper.

“Our other speakers, including Freda Savana [for the Doylestown Intelligencer] and Jarrett Renshaw [for Reuters], are just terrific journalists who can share their wide-ranging experiences in news with our students,” Rogers said.



Journalism Forum from 2015

PHOTO CREDIT: TONY ROGERS

Journalists who have spoken at the conference previously include Steve Capus, a Bucks alumnus who is currently the executive editor of CBS News, as well as reporters from the New York Times and Channel 6 action news.

The speakers plan to address a wide range of topics, from life in the newsroom to the rise of video journalism, a trend that has caused many traditional journalistic outlets to refocus their efforts.

“Video journalism used to be the domain of just broadcast news. But those kinds of technologies are now part and parcel of journalism, whether you are working in broadcast, print or online,” explained Rogers. “So I’m sure our speakers will have

plenty of knowledge and expertise to share about that.”

Speakers may also be compelled to answer student questions about “fake news,” a term that has been used in varying capacities by Democrats and Republicans to describe outlets ranging from CNN to Breitbart News.

“Our speakers all work for reputable news organizations, not so-called fake news sites,” Rogers said. “But I’m sure they’ll be able to talk about what impact, if any, these issues have had where they work.”

Rogers stressed the point that the conference isn’t just for students who already know they want to enter the field. “These forums would be good for students

who might be considering going into journalism, because it shows what the possibilities are.”

The conferences are scheduled for Monday, April 17, from 9 to 10:15 a.m. and on Tuesday, April 18, from 8 to 9:15 a.m. and from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. in Rollins 127.

Asked if he had any advice for students attending the conference, Rogers answered, “Just show up, and come with plenty of questions.”



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# Beyond Bucks

## Spring Break On Ice: Snowstorm Keeps Students Inside



**JAKE FISHER**  
*Centurion Staff*

As the mid-term for Bucks students ends, and spring break draws near, winter storm “Stella” showers Pennsylvania residents with varying sizes of snow and ice.

Spring break, a time for students to take a break from school work (and those nasty midterms) and look forward to the warm weather and the remaining half of the semester, was instead met by snowstorm “Stella,” which accumulated up to 15 inches of a mixture of snow and ice in some areas.

The Nor’easter, which held varying sizes of snowfall all throughout Pennsylvania, was rated a Category three on the “Northeast Snowfall Impact Scale (NESIS).”

With the winter seasons weather being all over the place, it’s no surprise that some had their doubts when it came to Stella’s arrival. Rachel Brown, 25-year old nursing major from Pennington

had very little belief. “The panic at my job [Shoprite] was unreal, but no different than any other snow we’ve gotten before” she says, while preceding to laugh. “I didn’t really need anything during the snow, but I sure as hell regret getting any rock salt.”

Many students saw the possibility of being snowed in with the chance to recuperate from college work. “It’s always nice when it snows.” Said Katie Maroes, 23-year old business major from Levittown. “I was just going to spend the break sleeping, so the snow didn’t really change anything for me.”

“I wish the timing was a little different,” Zachery Cage stated, 23-year old history major from Pennsbury stated. “One week in before or after now, and we’d have more time off!”

While some saw the snow as an opportunity to catch up on well-needed sleep, others saw a business opportunity. Justin Condee, 30, literature major from Yardley, spent his spring break shoveling sidewalks and roads. “Nobody wants to shovel snow” he stated, with a grin spread

across his face, “but \$300 bucks in a day is way worth it.” With the snow being a chance for extra spending money, competition is almost expected. “People would show up to unpaved houses, shovel it halfway then go ask for money” he claimed. “It’s pretty messed up, but I can’t imagine the people inside were too disappointed.”

And for those who avoided the process of shoveling all together, they were met with an awful surprise of rock-solid ice surrounding their vehicles. Will Joubert, 19-year old business major from Pennsbury, spent “three god-forsaken hours” slowly whittling his car out. “I spent most of that time trying to seesaw the damn thing out, and probably messed up the transmission” he lamented. He is also now a firm believer that “kitty litter is useless when it comes to this sort of thing.”

With Stella being the end of the winter season, the beginning of spring and the last half of the semester, students can only hope for good weather here on out.



PHOTO CREDIT: TOP TO BOTTOM: NICO CISNEROS, JAKE FISHER

## Bucks Builds: Swapping “Spring Break” for Service

**NICO CISNEROS**  
*Centurion Staff*

There are certainly plenty of college students who spend the precious few days of spring break sunbathing on distant shores, catching up on Netflix, or earning some overtime at work. Yet there are a unique few who choose to not to spend their time, but give it: these are the students who go on “alternative spring break”.

This spring break is spent using the week of freedom to volunteer for causes such as homelessness, hunger, and youth development throughout different parts of the country and the world.

In recent years, there has been a surge in popularity of alternative spring breaks. United Way has clocked in 150,000 spring break volunteer hours since 2006. According to the alternative spring break nonprofit Break Away, almost 20,000 students participated in such trips during the 2015-2016 school year. Yet this trend is nothing new for Bucks’ own Habitat for Humanity (HFH) club: this has been an annual tradition for them-- and Spring Break 2017 was no exception.

Nine students, accompanied by a faculty advisor, headed down to Avery County, North Carolina on March 12 to work with the local Habitat for Humanity. They joined students from New Jersey’s Stevens Institute of Technology to assist with a variety of projects. Together, they built walls for a planned home, completed bunk beds for a new room, and even finished a new addition for a community center.

Of course, these were not easy feats-- especially since the club had to face down the last snowstorm of the season, Stella, on their second work day. “Some of the students spent the morning

making walls to keep out the elements while they were working,” noted Bucks HFH President and sophomore Recreation Management major Amanda Hunsberger. Students also had to make due with crowded sleeping conditions, since the dormitory housing both schools was full.

Still, Bucks students managed to overcome these challenges to to both contribute to their hosting community and have a good time. Their host site manager, Bruce, kept things light during the work day with stories and funny anecdotes. Students from Stevens Institute worked together with Bucks students to make meals and organize game nights that featured UNO and the ever-elusive game, Secret Hitler.

Amanda noted that this combination of the “community feel” and the nature of the work is why she enjoys spending her spring break working with the HFH club. “My favorite part was getting to know the people I was working with and having the feeling of accomplishment when it was over,” she said. “Each time I volunteer with [H]abitat, I am able to make new friends and have great experiences.”

Luckily, those experiences are not limited to spring break, since the Bucks HFH is active year-round. Anyone interested in more information or joining should contact faculty advisor Dr. Rodney Altemose at [rodney.altemose@bucks.edu](mailto:rodney.altemose@bucks.edu). All club meetings are held at the Upper Bucks Campus. For more information on the local Habitat for Humanity chapter-- such as how to get involved in other ways, how and what to donate, and how the organization serves the community-- visit [habitatbucks.org](http://habitatbucks.org).

*Photos of the event*

PHOTO CREDIT: NICO CISNEROS





# Bucks News

## Battle of the MSA Comes to Bucks

NICO CISNEROS  
Centurion Staff

Face paint, team colors, and fight songs may be what you’d expect at a college sports game, but they were all on full display at the 6th annual Battle of the MSAs (Muslim Student Associations) hosted at Bucks’s Newtown campus. The energy was palpable as almost 140 members of 10 collegiate MSAs from the tri-state area arrived to compete in intercollegiate games that included Jeopardy, math, improvisational comedy, and recitation of the Qu’ran. For the Bucks MSA, win or lose, the day was already a triumph.

Hosting the Battle of the MSAs (BOTM) is no easy feat, especially for a community college. Since 2012, the event has been hosted by the Philadelphia MSA Council (PMC), a nonprofit that supports and provides networking and civic engagement opportunities for MSAs in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. A year prior to each BOTM, colleges put in bids to be the host. “We’ve kind of been the underdog [for hosting] since we’re not a four-year institution,” admitted MSA Vice President Ume Sarfaraz. “But ever since we’ve been increasing our presence at [PMC] events, letting them know that we are a community college and that we can compete with the big guys... [PMC] really acknowledged that.” PMC President Noor Jemy agreed. She and members of the PMC board visited the campus after receiving Bucks’s bid to scope out venue space, and to see

how supportive the administration would be in hosting the event. All were impressed by what Bucks had to offer, and the enthusiasm of the administration and MSA.

What made this win even more impressive is that the Bucks MSA has only been around a year and a half. The club had been inactive until October 2015, when co-founder and current SGA president Razin Karu revived it. Though not currently serving on the MSA’s executive board, Razin also played an integral role in getting Bucks chosen for the BOTM: at the request of current MSA president Rashed Alkatawneh, Razin put in Bucks MSA’s bid. The two had been trying to think of a way to host an event that would encourage other MSAs to come to the Bucks campus, when they decided to put in a BOTM bid. Both hoped that Razin’s

familiarity with the PMC would help them navigate the process, and give them a better chance at being considered.

Bucks MSA members could not be more thrilled that he did. “It’s such a huge honor,” noted MSA Director of Events Shanzeh Khan. “It makes me so happy to see all the MSAs at our college! You just think that, within a year, God has been so great to us and it’s so nice to see the amount of happiness and unity here. We’re just so glad to be a part of that.” MSA member Aneeqa Karu agreed: “It’s a great opportunity for us to represent the students who are Muslims, not just [this campus] but for Upper Bucks and Lower Bucks students as well. And we still want to continue being an active club on this campus because of the environment right now in the United States.”

That environment, along with the death of prominent American Muslim and famous boxer Muhammad Ali, influenced this BOTM’s theme, American Muslim Hero. Noor Jemy explained why the theme was so poignant: “We chose the theme because it was so critical when Muhammad Ali died-- we needed to honor him. Then it became so relevant recently...because both identities [American and Muslim] are interchangeable. Neither identity is greater than the other. Both create who we are.” Students in the competition reflected on the theme in 2D art, essays, short films, and photography. These submissions highlighted parents, doctors, and others across a wide spectrum of life and careers. “We’re allowing them to define what a hero means to them,” Noor said. “And what it means to be an American Muslim

one.” Aneeqa Karu expressed what the theme meant to her: “To leave a legacy we need a hero, and this meeting of the MSAs is a great opportunity to find the hero within ourselves.”

It was with that motivation and pride that the Bucks MSA entered the competitions of the day, going in for improv, math, and Jeopardy. Although they did not get past preliminary round for improv, they advanced in math and Jeopardy to win first place overall for both-- defending the Jeopardy title they had championed the year prior.

Going forward, the group will continue their monthly meetings and service projects. Ume Sarfaraz noted that there would be upcoming fundraisers, and for students to be on the lookout for their annual Discover Islam week during the month of April.



The Muslim Student Organization at an event

PHOTO CREDIT: RAZIN KARU

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# Bucks News

## Substance Abuse Event Highlights Opoid Abuse

SUNSHINE KARNS  
*Centurion Staff*

A team of men from the Avenues Recovery Drug Rehab Center in Jamison visited Bucks on March 8 to spread substance abuse awareness and reach out to those in need.

Joe Sass, the clinical director at Avenues and Stas Botsaris, a recovering addict and community outreach liaison, took turns in speaking out about drug abuse facts and what a struggling drug abuser or alcoholic can do to receive the help they need.

A major topic they highlighted was prescription drug abuse. “More people die of overdoses from prescription opioids than from all other drugs combined,” stated Sass. As it becomes easier to obtain prescription opioids, America has shifted from street narcotic abuse to the abuse of drugs they can get from the pharmacy with the right prescription.

“They took drug dealers off the streets and called them doctors,” said Botsaris.

Botsaris went on to talk about his own struggle with drug addiction. He spoke out about his past, “I would do anything to get my next fix. I believe I was always an addict before I even put a drug in my body,” he stated. He continued to speak out about his reasons for addiction, adding that “Drugs removed the fear and replaced it with a new sense of confidence.”

Botsaris is now on call 24 hours a day for those who need help with their addictions. He works with recovering addicts at Avenues and works with people to

ensure they attend meetings and stay clean.

“It doesn’t matter who you are, the disease of addiction doesn’t care, but Alcohol Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous, and Narcotics Anonymous do,” he stated, urging anyone who needs help to go to a meeting. All AA, NA and CA meetings are free and can be held in churches or other public places.

23.5 mil Americans are addicted to alcohol and drugs. “What’s surprising,” said Sass, “is that only

11% of those with an addiction receive treatment. That’s why we are here.”

Speaking about the stigma around drug addiction, they urged the understanding that drug addiction is a disease, not a choice. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, “drug addiction is a complex disease, and quitting usually takes more than good intentions or a strong will. Drugs change the brain in ways that make quitting hard, even for those who want to.”

The Avenues Recovery Drug Rehab Center is non-judgmental recovery center that focuses on open conversation and gaining trustworthy relationships with those seeking help. “Our goal is to empower navigation through recovery with individualized programs.”

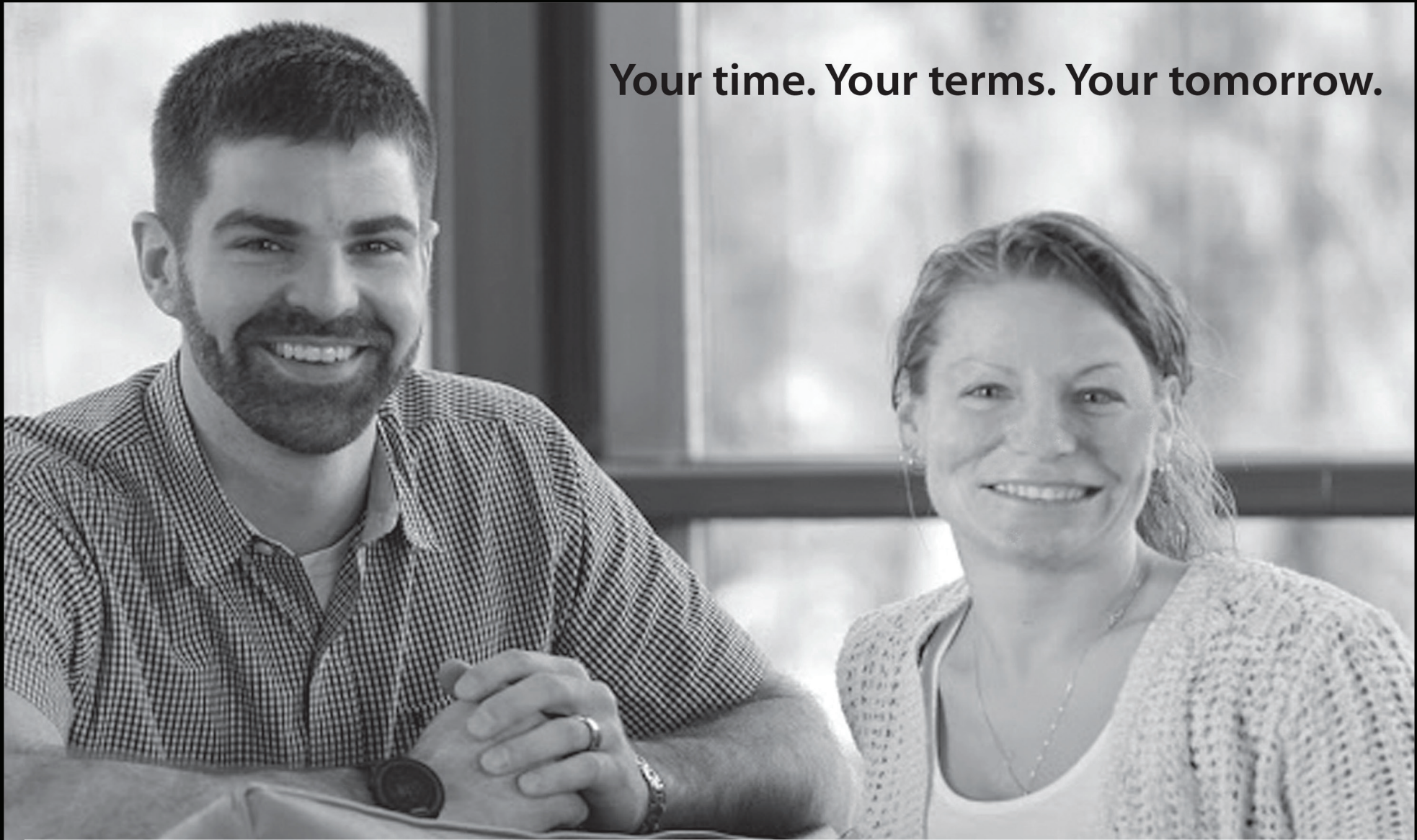
They are a program that takes pride in their code of ethical care. With doctors on staff those in need can immediately receive medical treatment. When speaking on finances, “Don’t let

money be the reason you don’t get the help you need,” said Sass, “Avenues accepts many different insurance plans and grants scholarships to those who still need help financially.”

Avenues Recovery Drug Rehab Center is located at 1753 Kendarbren Dr, Suite 612, in Jamison PA. Those seeking more information can visit their website, or call their 24 hour hotline at 1-(855) 200-8585.



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# Arts & Entertainment

## Jazz Singer Joanna Pascale Comes to Bucks

Taylor Sole  
Centurion Staff

Bucks will be welcoming Philadelphia-based Jazz vocalist Joanna Pascale for a live performance on April 6 at 7:30pm on the Newtown Campus.

Joanna attended Temple University and is currently staff at Temple as a music professor. She also teaches at the University of Pennsylvania. She has been featured on two of Temple University’s CD releases, including the Temple University Jazz Band’s to Thad Jones, entitled: To Thad With Love.

Joanna is described on her website (<http://www.joannapascale.com>) as “a singer of sophisticated taste, profound expressiveness, and raw emotion.” Her music is full of deep, emotional connections and intimate lyrics. About her music, Joanna states “If I don’t connect with a lyric, I can’t sing the song.”

Her newest album entitled “Wildflower” has received wonderful reviews among the Washington Post, All About Jazz Review and Icon Magazine. Mike Joyce, writer at the Washington Post states “Joanna Pascale isn’t

the sort of jazz vocalist who draws attention to herself at the expense of a lyric...she also doesn’t settle for songs whose words don’t deserve the attention... Her real gift is storytelling, not improvisation, and she puts that talent to splendid use.” The music on Wildflower is supported by a terrific band lead by pianist Orrin Evans, and features Jazz artists Christian McBride, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Gregoire Maret, Bilal, and Cyrus Chestnut.

Wildflower is an album Joanna explains is very personal to her, and encompasses the recent changes in her lifestyle. She previously was employed as a performer at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel, but after leaving that long-term gig, she wrote Wildflower, an act lead by her desire to follow a more personal path.

The April 6 performance will be taking place at the Zlock Performing Arts Center at the Bucks Newtown Campus and is expected to last until 9:30 PM. The concert is free admission for BCCC students, and general admission for other guests is priced at \$10. VIP tickets (including a meet & greet with Joanna) are \$25.



Photo of Joanna Pascale

PHOTO CREDIT: JOANNAPASCLE.COM

## Bucks Students to Perform “Spring Awakening”

Cherry Kivumbi  
Centurion Staff

Do not let the name of “Spring Awakening” fool you, for this coming-of-age musical received a daring R-rating on its tickets and posters.

According to Music Theatre International, the show takes place in Imperial Germany in the year 1891. It tells the story of a group of young teenagers exploring their sexuality, in a society that often bars them from doing so.

The play is written by Steven Sater with music by rock star Duncan Sheik. With this dynamic duo, the musical managed to gain eight Tony awards, including Best Musical.

Maia Van Valkenburgh, a 19-year-old Doylestown communications major, decided to pick this play as the one to be used for the spring semester.

“This play is revolutionary in nature. It breaks boundaries and opens the conversation about sex, domestic abuse, suicide, and all the dark topics,” he explained

In choosing the play, it was obvious that Van Valkenburgh wanted to act in “Spring Awakening” but that is not the only reason. Van Valkenburgh directed a play of her own last semester, as well. The energy in the theater draws her back into staying in the drama club, which is her true passion. Van Valkenburgh was honored with scoring the role of Wendla, the lead in “Spring Awakening.” This character appears to be a young, naïve, teenage girl who knows very little about sex or the outside world.

Wendla is very sheltered by her parents, and is innocent of the wider society. During the course of this play, she begins to learn some of the harsh realities of the outside world.

This is Van Valkenburgh’s first lead in a play. She acted a bit in high school but mainly got background roles. However, as she become more confident in herself, she put her best foot forward and ended up getting the lead part, and

feels very blessed for the opportunity.

Jazmine Paches, a 19-year-old Warminster music major, also has a key role within the play as Martha. She is one of Wendla’s friends, and there is more to her character that meets the eye.

Martha as a character is extremely fearful and worried. As it turns out, she has a dark past that has to do with abuse. Over time, she helps Wendla learn about the world and that it is not always kind. Paches describes Martha as “The fear within us all”.

Paches feels extremely passionate about the play because she feels the performing is fantastic, and since she missed the fall semester play, she wanted to get back in the swing of things.

She thinks that even though this is a musical, it is different from an ordinary show. She claims, “Musicals sometimes tend to be overdramatic, but this musical is not. It is emotional and very free-spirited.”

Paches also insists that, “It gets you in the right mood you want to be in at the right time, it takes you to another place.”

Sarena Harmon, a student from Levittown majoring in Film and Cinema, plays another of Wendla’s friends, named Anna. Anna represents the group’s conscious, easily able to decipher right from wrong, which acts as guidance for the other two, Wendla and Martha.

Harmon adds her own opinion to the coming-of-age play, “It is raunchier than anything I have seen before. It takes chances and tests boundaries.”

Within this play Harmon feels she has grown closer with the cast as they fill in the big shoes of this Tony-award winning musical.

Finally, we have the show’s director, Stephanie Lafferty, a 19-year-old music major from Warminster.

Lafferty was initially shocked by the play and its content, but was very excited to make her debut as a director for the play.

Van Valkenburgh decided to take a break from directing and Lafferty spontaneously took a chance and decided to direct “Spring Awakening”



Lafferty is slowing getting the ropes and figuring out what it means to be a director. She says, “It can be stressful at times but it is extremely fun.”

She finds it extremely fascinating to have a vision in her head of what the play will be like and move it in that direction.

Since the cast and crew are all very close, she finds it more comfortable that her first directing gig is among friends.

“Spring Awakening” will be appearing on May 12, 13, and 14. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the show starts at 7 pm.

Tickets are sold at the door and

at bucks.edu/tickets. It is \$10 for students and \$12 for general admission.



# Arts & Entertainment

## Archie Comics Makes A Comeback with Riverdale

KAYLEY NAGLE  
Centurion Staff

The Archie Comics, a famous comic book series that began in 1941, have made their way to the television screen in the hit teen drama “Riverdale”, currently airing on Thursdays on The CW. The comics were originally created by MLJ Publications’ John L. Goldwater, who was inspired by the “Andy Hardy” movies and came up with a vision of a comic about a normal, relatable teen. The “Archie Comics” center around protagonist Archie Andrews, and follows the adventure of him and his friends as they deal with the daily troubles of high school drama and the inevitable young love romance. In less than ten years, the comics became the headliner series for the publication, which drove the company to change its publishing name to “Archie Comic Publications.” This book series became relatable very quickly, and spoke of deep topics that young readers could resonate with. Kevin Keller, a reoccurring character in the comics and the television series, was the first openly gay comic book character to appear in the publication. This gave certain readers a character to look up to and identify with, and it allowed them to feel accepted by and represented by the series. Kevin and the rest of the

characters, can now be seen on “Riverdale,” where 75 years of laughter and excitement come to life on screen. “Riverdale” is an adaptation of the series that puts a dark twist on the original light and comedic tone of the comics. It aired for the first time in January 2017, and is about halfway through its first season. The show’s plot is focuses on the mystery of the murder of Jason Blossom, a popular quarterback who disappeared suddenly and was soon found dead. Archie, played by KJ Apa, tries to piece together the clues of what happened on the night of the murder alongside his friends. Betty and Veronica, played by Lili Reinhart and Camila Mendez, are the breakout stars of the show. They bring a refreshing taste of unbreakable friendship, unlike their rivalry in the comics. No need to worry, though: the infamous love triangle between Archie, Betty, and Veronica is still in full swoon in the television series. The show, like the comics, is also heavily driven by music. Archie is in a constant struggle of balancing his passions between singing, investigating, and playing football. “Josie and The Pussy Cats” a famous band from the comic series, also make their return, per-

forming songs almost every week in the television series. Some fans are disappointed in the changes production has made to the characters as they were portrayed in the comics. They feel that the writing should ring true to the stories told in the books. However, it should be emphasized that this television show is just an adaptation, and although the setting and characters are the same, the producers have taken a different spin to reel in a new teen audience, like the other shows on The CW. Thankfully for those who are unfamiliar with the comics, it is not necessary to know the characters’ backstories before watching the show. To sum up, “Riverdale” is a brand-new tale with an abundance of new details and drama, making it easy to fall in love with for any viewer, whether you grew up with the comics or not. The current trend to make old things new again seems to be popular within the media. It brings in new artistic perspectives on old stories, giving audiences of all ages something to enjoy. If you want to become a part of this new entertainment movement, be sure to tune into “Riverdale” at 9 P.M. Thursday nights on The CW.



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# Beyond Bucks

## Crafters For Life Program Benefits Autistic Community

TATIANA GORDON  
*Centurion Staff*

The idea of the Crafters for Life came from a skills program from the Council Rock school district. It is a part time job and a number of adults are involved. The age of the adults ranges from 18 to older. Joanne Curry is a speech Pathologist in the Council Rock school district. She created the Crafters for Life concept to teach autistic, special needs individuals to have the skills to make good quality products in order to transition them into well-paying jobs. Curry developed procedures that autistic individuals would have to follow to guide them into creating a quality item. The products that were sold ranged from body scrubs, scarves, hand lotions etc. The customers that bought a product(s) spent the money for a good cause because all of the money that was spent went to autistic, special needs individuals to help them find employment in the future. Sarah Uricchio-20, Pre-K education says, “Autistic students are successful in making the product line and this company gets you the opportunity to communicate with new friends that are interested in the same thing as you which is to help autistic students find employment. It is a pleasure to be able to help these students especially since it is difficult for students with autism or special needs to find jobs these days.” The whole goal of helping out with this company is to place each product the student made on the

table and advertise their artwork. The employees greet each customer that walks by and explains a little bit about what the Crafters for Life program is about. Last week, Crafters for Life sold \$400 worth of items. Body scrubs were a popular buy and scarves were the second popular buy. A couple of customers came to a table to buy 4 or 5 scarves. Jenni Kelly-20, Sports Management says, “I like how customers spend money for a good cause and were able to buy a creative product made from an autistic student. That is so cool that these students have the opportunity to make products and they feel so much pride in doing it. Overall, it was a great experience and I felt proud in being a part of this program to help and support a good cause.” Mike Grant- has been in charge of Crafters in Life company since 2015. He has a 19-year-old son who is autistic and he hopes his son would have a successful job in the future which he is hoping this company would help with. Grant says, “It is encouraging to see that the majority of the company are profitable and we are able to pay our employees that are working there. We are also sustainable which is important because we don’t have to worry about the government intervening to help with our company. What is also encouraging to me is the experience and that my son who is 19, can have a future that is successful.” For more information, you can email Mike Grant at [mike@craftersforlife.com](mailto:mike@craftersforlife.com)

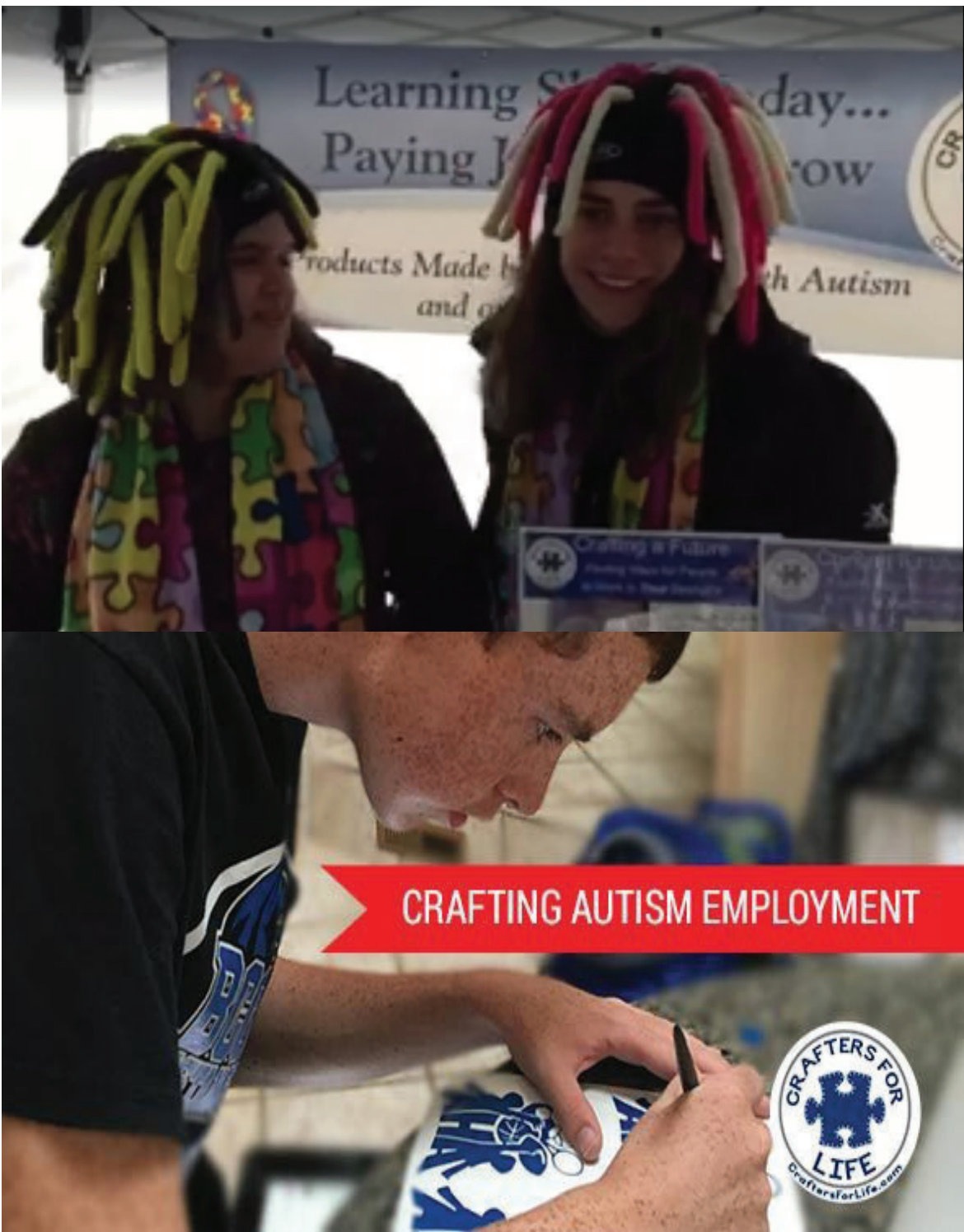
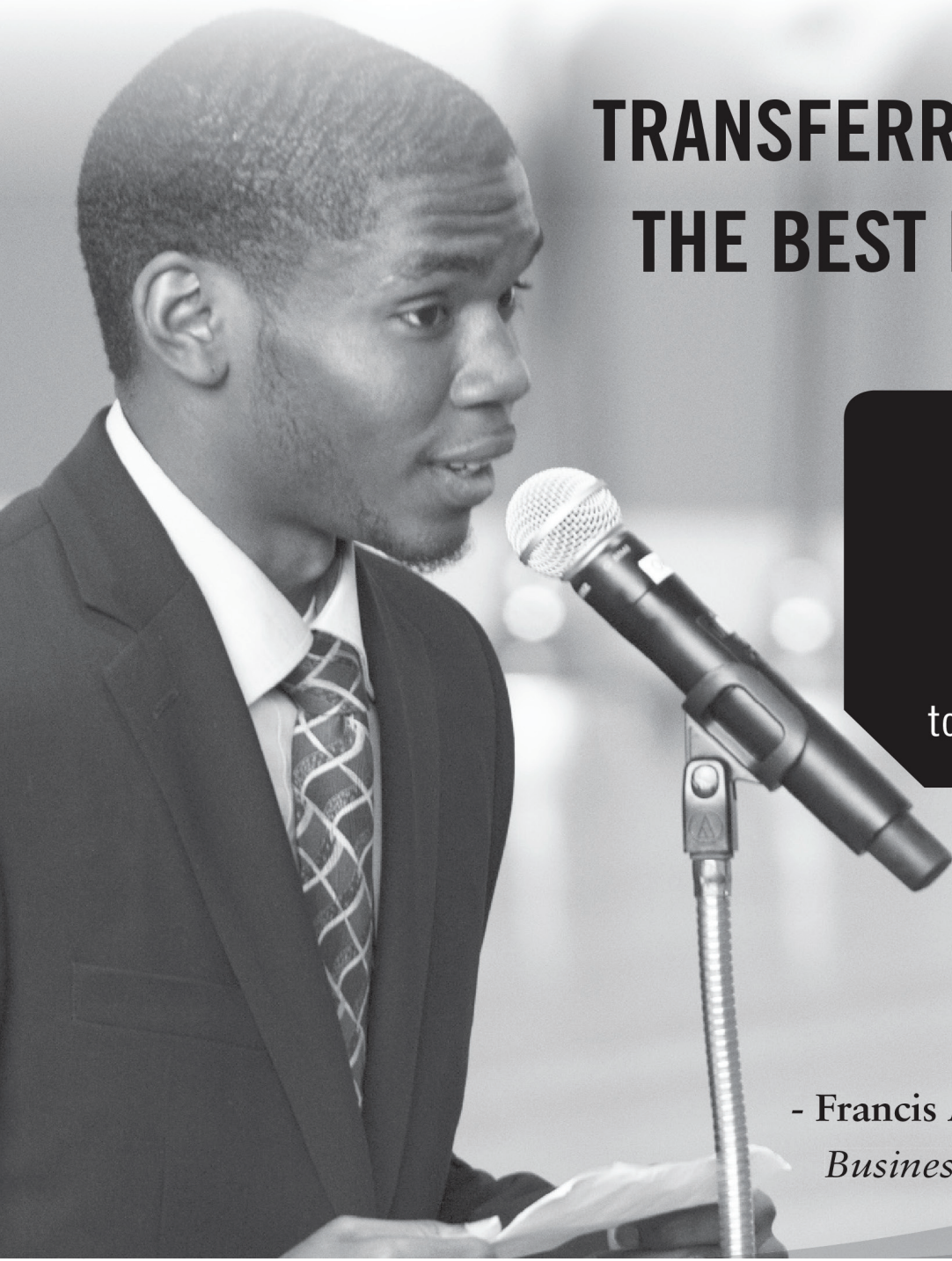


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# Beyond Bucks

## Trump Budget Proposal Cuts Meals on Wheels Program

*Bucks Professor discusses the importance of the program*

EMMA KULICZKOWSKI  
Centurion Staff

President Trump’s recent budget proposal has caused some controversy due to funds being cut on social welfare programs, including Meals on Wheels.

Meals on Wheels is a program that delivers meals to the elderly who are unable to cook or purchase food for themselves.

This program doesn’t earn much federal funding to begin with, but with cuts to things like the nutrition programs of the Older Americans Act, it will hit Meals on Wheels more significantly.

The funding that Meals on Wheels does get only covers around 30-60 percent of the cost and other money needed is received through donations or fundraising.

Stephen O’Neill, a professor in the Language and Literature department at Bucks, has been volunteering for Meals on Wheels for about 20 years and shared his experiences with this program and views as to why he thinks it’s so vital.

“I think it’s one of the most important social welfare programs that we have. The people all really appreciate not only the meals but also the human contact,” O’Neill says.

“For some, they don’t see

anybody but us week in and week out. Relatives live too far away or they honestly don’t care. Some live in isolation out in the country in Jersey with no neighbors.”

“I deliver the meals out of Lambertville, New Jersey and can range in visits with people in low income apartments or houses in the countryside.”

“Sometimes I have to plan my escape because all they want to do is talk and talk and talk.”

“I have met some of the most interesting people you could ever imagine; doctors, lawyers, engi-

neers, and even an Olympic tennis player. These people have had the most amazing lives,” he said.

“Even if it’s brief, the human contact they receive is very important.”

Meals on Wheels is all volunteer work and they are always looking for more help.

“Sometimes we do a sort of informal assessment, to see if they are mentally or physically ok. If I think there is a problem, someone can contact family members or social workers to see what’s going on”, he explains.

“For many people, Meals on Wheels is their only source of food. This is their life-line.”

“On holidays, we deliver extra meals so they won’t starve over the day’s volunteers aren’t working.”

The benefit of Meals on Wheels in not solely about nutrition. In a study done in 2016, it was noted that seniors who received the meals had low loneliness scores.

“Nutrition is really important for these people. I know these meals and regular visits keeps them healthier mentally and

physically.”

“It’s the difference between staying in your home and going to a nursing home, which is the last thing anybody ever wants to do”, he says. “Meals on Wheels helps people stay out of hospitals.”

“It really is one of the biggest bargains our society gets.”

“I think everybody should give back to society. We are all in this together. When there’s a need like that, somebody has to fill it.”



MEALS on WHEELS  
AMERICA

TOGETHER, WE CAN DELIVER.

## Teachers of Tomorrow Club Makes a Difference



Photo of Bucks student that are apart of Teachers of Tomorrow

JULIA PACIFICO  
Centurion Staff

The Bucks Teachers of Tomorrow club is a great way to serve the children in our community. The club participates in many fundraisers and local events during the school year that provide meaningful experiences for both students and children alike.

The club was designed to give students in the Bucks education program an opportunity to work with and serve the children in our community, however it is not limited to students studying education. Anyone is welcome to join.

“I love being a member of the Teachers of Tomorrow Club at Bucks because it gives me hands-on experience to work with the young children of our community,” said Chris Kovaleski, a student in the Teachers of Tomorrow club.

In the past, the Teachers of Tomorrow club has sponsored a Fall Festival for the children at Christ’s Home in Warrington. Kids involved got to paint pumpkins, decorate fall leaf ornaments, and play a fun game of kickball with the Bucks students.

Alyx Danberry, the student president of the Teachers of Tomorrow club, says, “We all look for new ways to help the community, which in turn helps us be even more grateful for the

opportunities we have every day. Teachers of Tomorrow is like one giant family. I wouldn’t be where I am today in my schooling career without these amazing human beings I am lucky enough to know!”

Meetings for the Teachers of Tomorrow club are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, at the Upper Bucks Campus in room 251, from 12:30-1:30. During the meetings, they plan for upcoming events in the community.

As for the future, Teachers of Tomorrow is sponsoring a Spring Shopping Night, on Friday, March 24th at the Upper Bucks Campus, from 6:30-9:00 PM. 20 local vendors are participating. All are welcome, and admission is free.

All the vendors are going to

give a percentage of their profits to the Teachers of Tomorrow club. The club is hoping to donate the money to the child development room at Pennridge High School, in order to help them replace supplies that were damaged by a recent fire at the school.

The Teachers of Tomorrow club is a great opportunity for students to get to know other students on campus, as well as a chance to get to know different organizations that serve children in the local community.

After students help sponsor an event, advisor Jeannine Chodoroff, provides each student with a certificate of participation, which they can add to their future professional portfolio.

Jeannine Chodoroff, club

advisor, says, “It is a great group of students! We work really well together and we do great things for the community!”

For anyone who is interested in joining the Teachers of Tomorrow club, or is eager to learn more information about upcoming events, email the advisor Jeannine Chodoroff (Jeannine.Chodoroff@bucks.edu). Or get connected through Facebook (Teachers of Tomorrow- Upper Bucks).

PHOTO CREDIT: JULIA PACIFICO

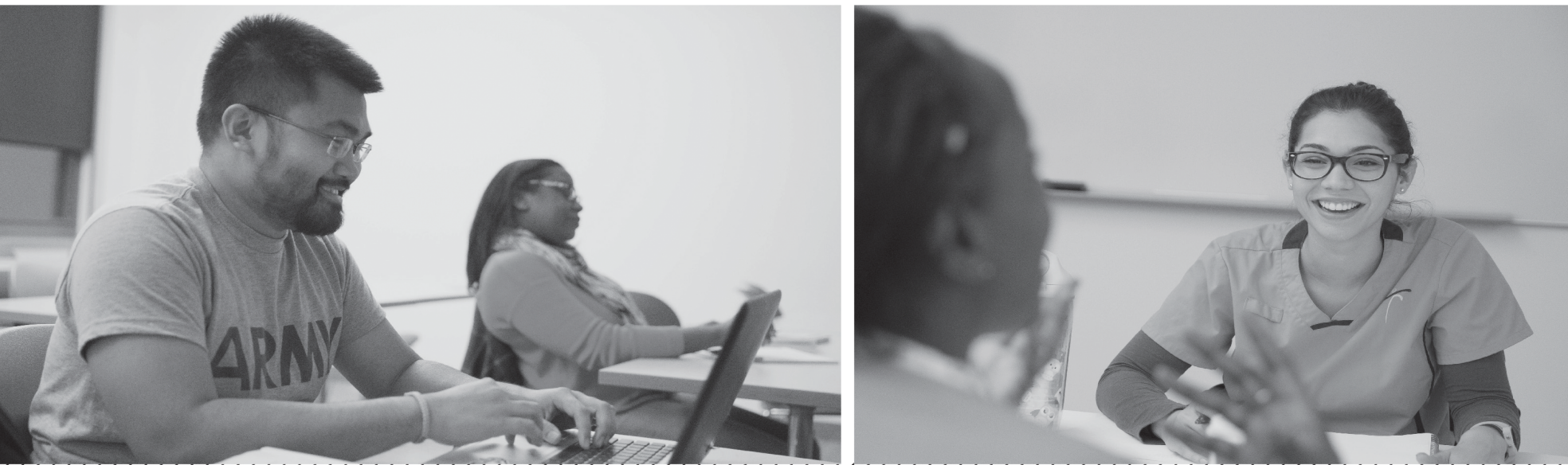


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JENN KOPSIE '14

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# Sports

## With Jeffery and Smith, Eagles Gain Long-Awaited Weapons

GIANFRANCO ILLIANO AND JOE ROATCHE

Centurion Staff

A few months back, Eagles vice president of operations Howie Roseman said, “we need to surround Carson [Wentz] with weapons in order to help with his growth as a player.” Howie Roseman did just that in free agency by striking a deal with wide receivers Alshon Jeffery and Torrey Smith.

Formerly of the Chicago Bears, Alshon Jeffery was the splash playmaker that Eagles fans were praying for this offseason. Jeffery has widely been considered the top wide receiver available in free agency and opted for a one-year contract with the Eagles worth \$14 million.

Meanwhile, Smith was released by the San Francisco 49ers and inked a three-year deal with the Eagles worth \$15 million.

The Eagles haven’t had a 1,000-yard receiver since Jeremy Maclin in 2014. They had only one wide receiver catch more than 40 passes in 2016 and that was Jordan Matthews when he had 73 catches for 804 yards.

Bringing in Torrey Smith gives the Eagles a “deep-threat” that the Eagles haven’t had since they released the polarizing wide receiver DeSean Jackson back in 2013 (Thanks again, Chip Kelly). Smith has the speed to allow quarterback Carson Wentz to show off his arm and stretch the field. Wentz ranked 29th in the league with 6.23 yards per attempt in his rookie season. Smith averaged 17 yards per catch in his career, including an NFL-best 20.1 average in 2015.

With Alshon Jeffery signing with the Eagles, he instantly becomes their number one wide receiver. The Eagles haven’t had a legitimate number one wide receiver of Jeffery’s caliber since signing Terrell Owens back in 2004 (Yes, it’s been that long). Luckily for the Eagles, Jeffery has excellent hands, which the Eagles have desperately needed after witnessing 30 drops from their wide receivers in 2016. Jeffery is a big target standing at 6-foot-4, 230 pounds, with the ability to make plays anywhere on the field.

Suddenly with two acquisitions, the Eagles went from having the most inconsistent wide receiving corps in the NFL to building a position group that might be the deepest and most explosive on the roster.

In addition to their free agent acquisitions, the Eagles managed to retain linebacker Najee Goode, along with offensive lineman Stefen Wisniewski who both managed to play valuable snaps as back-ups last year.

Eagles fans can finally breathe a sigh of relief when watching the passing game in 2017 with the additions of Alshon Jeffery and Torrey Smith. As an Eagles fan, it’s fulfilling so see the Birds’ front office stick to their word and add playmakers to this team. The team will only go as far as Wentz can take them and the Eagles needed to surround him with better players and it appears that’s exactly what they did—at least on paper.

With the free agency period still looming, the Birds are most likely done spending and on the flip side, most likely looking to cut and or trade players.



Alshon Jeffery (top) and Torrey Smith

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